United Nations E/C.2/1999/2/Add.16

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
25 March 1999
English
Original: English/French

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
1999 session
Item 4 of the provisional agenda*
Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in general and special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

Quadrennial reports, 1994–1997, submitted through the Secretary-General pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Contents

		Page
1.	All Pakistan Women's Association	2
2.	International Academy of Architecture	3
3.	International Federation of Business and Professional Women	6
4.	Church World Service, Inc.	7
5.	Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church	8
6.	International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences	9
7.	Covenant House	12
8.	International Association of Lawyers	13
9.	World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA)	15

* E/C.2/1999/1

99-09844 (E) 120599

1. All Pakistan Women's Association

(Special consultative status granted 1951)

All Pakistan Women's Association (APWA) is one of the first organizations to bring human rights problems to the attention of the United Nations and international communities at large. Hence APWA was granted special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and is in association with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat. APWA is a national association of women of Pakistan. It has four provincial (56 districts) fringe urban areas and rural branches throughout Pakistan. APWA has branched out at international level with branches in London, Bradford, Manchester, Birmingham, Toronto and Beijing.

WVOCC (Women's Voluntary Coordinating Council) was formed to intensify its services in depth.

APWA's objectives are in conformity with the objectives of the United Nations, that is to say, integration of women in the national development priorities on education, health, family planning and income-generating skills and legal rights of women.

The emphasis is on mobilizing women as a force to promote universal peace: APWA was awarded the Peace Messenger Certificate of 1987.

APWA's activities are describable as follows:

(a) Vital role of APWA in the field of education: over the years it has established 73 primary and secondary schools; five arts and science degree colleges; three colleges of home economics throughout Pakistan;

(b) Legal and social services are being rendered at APWA's community centres throughout Pakistan and particularly at APWA's Jail Project in Karachi where income-generating skills are also taught to women prisoners and primary education is provided to their children;

(c) APWA disseminates knowledge about the activities of the United Nations and its affiliate bodies by holding conferences, seminars and meetings throughout Pakistan;

(d) Among other functions are the following:

(i) APWA Women's Rights Section held conferences in 1994 which recommended establishment of a permanent commission on the status of women to sign and ratify the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(ii) Again in 1994, a workshop on women and law was held in cooperation with the Ministry of Youth and Development and Youth Affairs; the workshop was a preparatory committee for the Beijing conference;

(iii) Beijing 1995, Fourth World Conference on Women was held in Beijing with pressure from APWA;

(iv) The Government of Pakistan also signed and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(v) APWA rendered social and legal services for creating awareness at its various centres where video films on legal and socio-economic rights of women are screened;

(vi) APWA's views are in conformity with those of the Economic and Social Council: APWA is making every effort to eliminate all discrimination against women;

(vii) In 1994, at the specific recommendations of APWA, a permanent commission on the status of women was established for signing and ratifying the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

(viii) In 1994, the APWA Triennial Conference was held with special reference to women's rights and the United Nations;

(ix) Seminar on women and development, 8 and 9 February 1994;

There was a consensus that the Government of Pakistan must sign and ratify the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. To the satisfaction of APWA, the Government of Pakistan signed the Convention;

(e) United Nations section reports back to the United Nations and concerned United Nations bodies on the implementation of United Nations resolutions, conventions and decisions that cover all the fields of its work: equality, development and peace; the United Nations section is in continuous correspondence, with necessary information, with the United Nations and concerned bodies;

(f) APWA has its representatives at the United Nations in New York and Vienna. With the death of its Representative in Geneva, APWA is in process of nominating an able representative in Geneva;

(g) United Nations Affairs Section has observed United Nations days since 1956:

(i) In 1995: commemoration of fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations: chief guest, Governor of Sindh Province;

(ii) In 1996: United Nations Day was held: chief guest, Minister of Defence; chief speaker, Secretary, Women's Division;

(iii) In 1997: "Human Rights are Women's Rights": chief guest, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs; Message from Prime Minister of Pakistan;

(h) Besides, meetings and conferences are also held at provincial and district levels;

(i) UNICEF days are held during APWA's projects every year in schools: children's stage dramas, songs and exhibitions of their paintings, handicrafts and so on;

(j) UNESCO has donated library books to APWA's educational institutions;

(k) United Nations Affairs Section of APWA since its inception has striven to support United Nations objectives and efforts in the process of peace; the section is also in continuous contact with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat, UNICEF, UNESCO in New York, Geneva, Vienna;

(l) Replies are dispatched to United Nations Office in Geneva and Vienna: reply to some United Nations letters:

(i) Children and labour: can they coexist; approaching rights of the child, 23–29 October;

(ii) Survey sheets and questionnaire duly filled: replies are dispatched to United Nations Offices in New York and at Vienna regularly;

(m) At the call of Dr. Elain Vold, Chair NGO/DPI conference, a sum of $50 was donated by the Vice-President for United Nations Affairs for a plaque to be placed with the names of non-governmental organizations in United Nations Resource Centre;

(n) World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children, Stockholm, Sweden. In reply a paper on Islam and Europe was sent to Ms. Lenr Hjlem Wallen, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Sweden; she sent a letter of thanks inviting the Executive Vice-President to attend the Conference;

(o) United Nations NGO Forum, Beijing: Hurario was a powerful force which kept delegates informed about the empowerment of women in every sphere of their lives;

(p) Questionnaires, survey sheets, performas sent by the United Nations and United Nations bodies: replies are sent to the concerned United Nations bodies to provide substantial information on various aspects of APWA activities.

The most significant fact is that the All Pakistan Women's Association has been a force which, in Cupertino with women members of the Assembly, prevailed on the Government to treat women as human beings; hence equal rights were given to the women in the Constitution of Pakistan, 1973.

Through the joint efforts of APWA and other women associations, the Government was approached to take measures to address custodial domestic violence as a punishable crime. Hence the Government took action by increasing the number of women in the police force.

The United Nations needs the services of non-governmental organizations to promote social integration and sustainable human development which will ultimately lead to the accomplishment of the goal of human rights. As stated before, APWA is playing a vital role in the promotion of human rights and development.

2. International Academy of Architecture

(Special consultative status granted 1989)

Headquarters address

Sofia 1504, 35 Oborichte Street, Sofia 1000, P.O. Box 56
tel: 446297, 9434950, tel/fax: 9434959
e-mail: 0882@mbox.infotel.bg
Regional centres in Paris, Tokyo, Mexico, Moscow and Istanbul.

The International Academy of Architecture (IAA) is a non-governmental, non-profit, self-financing organization which has been granted special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council.

The main objectives of IAA activity are:

(a) To support the Economic and Social Council, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and programmes;

(b) To stimulate the development of architecture, town planning, and architectural theory and its application;

(c) To promote architectural education, professional qualification and information;

(d) To organize postgraduate training of young, talented architects from all over the world (workshops);

(e) To train specialists from developing countries;

(f) Social housing and ecology and so forth.

Geographical extension

IAA has active individual members in the following 38 countries: Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Georgia, Germany, Finland, France, Greece, Japan, Jordan, Hungary, India, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Yugoslavia. IAA members are the masters of the contemporary architecture (60 academicians and 64 professors).

IAA programmes and activity

Within the past four years (1994–1997), IAA has developed extremely manifold activities.

Programme "Workshops"

This programme comprises a number of lectures delivered by IAA members, but the main objective is to elaborate an architectural project on a basic theme:

(a) 1994: architectural workshop in Paris, organized by IAA centre in Paris and the School of Architecture, Paris; Conflans on the movement "City and Landscape";

(b) 1995: second workshop in Odessa, Ukraine, with the support of Odessa Municipality on "Individual House".

Scientific programme: seminars, conferences

1996: International Forum, discussion in Istanbul on "Ecopolises: settlements for sustainable development". The main objective was to support the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements Conference (Habitat II) ("The City Summit") in Istanbul, in order to furnish the official documents of the Conference with professional ideas, principles and criteria on the specific problems of urbanization.

The General Secretary of the Habitat I Conference of Vancouver opened the Forum on behalf of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). Participants elaborated and approved the Istanbul Declaration.

1997: Authors' conferences: outstanding world-renowned masters of architecture, presented during the World Triennial of Architecture ("Interarch '97") in Sofia.

1997: International symposia on "Architectural and Urban Quality for a Sustainable Development" in Rome, held in collaboration with ENEA (National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Environment, Italy), the Municipality of Rome, the National Institute of Architecture, Italy, and the Architectural Faculty of University la Sapienza, Italy, opened by the Mayor of Rome.

Programme: "Architectural Education"

1994: Interarch '94: International Round Table: discussion on the problems of contemporary architectural education and on the new trends of future architectural education.

1995: Conference in Moscow Branch of IAA on architectural education with the active participation of outstanding academicians and professors.

1996: Many IAA representatives took part in the International Union of Architects (UIA) congress/forum on architectural education in Barcelona.

1997: Interarch '97: the main international forum was on architectural education of the twenty-first century: "Formation of the New Type of Architect". Very significant and useful papers were presented by representatives of different architectural schools (professors from Mexico, Russian Federation, Spain, Bulgaria, United States of America, Japan, Italy, Australia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ukraine, Georgia, Germany, Turkey, and so on). The participants approved the instrument elaborated by the Fifth IAA Assembly, "Declaration on Education in Architecture".

Programme: "Horizon 2000" Architecture and Ecology

1994: The Fourth IAA Assembly approved a charter "Horizon 2000: Sustainable Architecture for a Sustainable World", presenting the new ideas and conceptions on the constant problems of sustainable development of the cities.

1995: The Interdisciplinary Conference "Megacities 2000" was organized in Rotterdam by IAA jointly with "Megacities 2000" Foundation (Netherlands).

1995: La Paz, Bolivia, International Course on Design and Construction of Earth Architecture was organized by the group "Habiterra" and IAA Mexico Centre.

Programme: "Interarch"

1997: in Sofia, the Eighth World Triennial of Architecture was held jointly with the Union of Bulgarian Architects. Outstanding architects, theoreticians and critics from different countries participated in this professional world meeting, exchanging and discussing their concepts and ideas on contemporary architectural trends. The IAA representatives in their official addresses accentuated the occurrence of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations. Lectures of world-famous architects were presented.

"Interarch '97" was highly appreciated with greetings by the President of Bulgaria; the Secretary-General of UNESCO, and the President and General Secretary of UIA, among others.

Programme: exhibitions and competitions

1994: IAA academicians and professors have elaborated designs for a single-family cottage in a residential complex in Moscow. The exhibition of the models of their masterpieces has been presented in Moscow.

1996: during the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) in Istanbul, during the UIA Congress in Barcelona and during "Interarch '97", the unique IAA exhibition "Leading Masters of the World Architecture — IAA Academicians and Professors" with colour photos of their recent architectural masterpieces, was successfully presented.

1996: during the Habitat II conference in Istanbul, IAA presented the exhibition "Ecopolises — Settlements for Sustainable Development", the projects having been elected by an international jury after a competition, announced by IAA.

1997: Interarch '97: many exhibitions were presented:

(a) Exhibition: competition of architectural built projects;

(b) Exhibition of diploma projects from selected architectural schools;

(c) Exhibition of books and magazines on architecture;

(d) According to United Nations programme, a special exhibition "Ecopolises — Settlements for the Sustainable Development";

(e) Remarkable exhibition "Earth Construction and Designs in Iberoamerica", and so on.

Architecture and children

1994: The IAA Children's School on Architecture started its permanent courses in Sofia, presenting every year an exhibition of children's pictures on architectural elements.

Programme: cooperation with other organizations

IAA has been granted consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and with UNIDO.

IAA has agreements for cooperation and memoranda of understanding with United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), UNEP, Iberoamerican Council of the National Associations of Architects, Pan-American Federation of Architects, Union of Bulgarian Architects, National Academy of Architecture of the Mexican Associations of Architects, Ministry of Culture of the Russian Federation, Free University of Belgium, Russian Academy of Arts, Nautilus Foundation (United States of America), and an agreement of cooperation with International Union of Architects (UIA), among others.

Foundation "Interacademica" and "Interproject"

Interproject is the IAA Institute of design, scientific research and consultancy with all kinds of technical services. Interproject has been registered in the former Department of Technical Cooperation for Development of the United Nations Secretariat (UNDTCD) and United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) Rosters for consultancy.

Interproject and Interacademica Foundation with their activities ensure the financing of IAA.

Publishing activity

Publishing activity is as follows:

(a) Three architectural monographs of IAA academicians has been published in Italy;

(b) 1995: a new IAA booklet has been published including all IAA academicians and professors;

(c) From 1996, the publication "IAA Review": IAA bulletin which covers IAA current activities and key world

architectural and United Nations events of international significance;

(d) 1994, 1995, 1996: publications on the results of the international IAA workshops and meetings;

(e) 1997: the major theoretical document of IAA, "Charter Horizon 2000 — Sustainable Architecture for a Sustainable World", including three IAA declarations: "Sustainable Architecture for a Sustainable World" (1994); "Ecopolises: Settlements for Sustainable Development" (1996); and "Declaration on Education in Architecture" (1997), published with the financial support of the UNDP residency in Sofia.

Participation of IAA representatives in United Nations events

Participation was as follows:

(a) 1994: IAA representative took part in non-governmental organization meeting for Habitat II in Geneva;

(b) 1994: IAA representative took part in the work of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat II in Geneva;

(c) 1995: IAA representative took part in the work of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat II and in session of the Commission on Human Settlements in Nairobi;

(d) 1995: IAA representative has been appointed by UNESCO as a member of international commission for Gore monument in Senegal;

(e) 1995: IAA representative visited UNIDO centre in Vienna in order to discuss future mutual activity;

(f) 1996: IAA representative took part in the work of the Preparatory Committee for Habitat II in New York;

(g) 1996: IAA representatives took an active part in United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) Conference in Istanbul ("City Summit").

3. International Federation of Business and Professional Women

(General consultative status granted 1947)

The International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW) takes pleasure in submitting the present quadrennial report.

The organization was founded in 1930 to bring together women in business and the professions from all parts of the world to work together for equal opportunities in economic, civil and political life in their communities both nationally and internationally. It aims to achieve equality in access to education, in political representation and in decision-making roles at all levels of society.

IFBPW has representatives in more than 100 countries in all parts of the world and in both developed and developing nations. In the past four years, membership has increased in the countries of Eastern Europe with new clubs in the Russian Federation, Belarus and Hungary and affiliates have formed chapters in China and in Viet Nam. There has also been a rejuvenation of the organization in Africa where there are new members in the Sudan, Senegal, Cameroon and Mozambique. A new affiliate in Sri Lanka has been registered as have chapters in Lebanon, Cuba and Paraguay.

During the present quadrennium, like most other women's organizations, IFBPW has been particularly involved with the Beijing Fourth World Conference on Women together with the preparatory meetings in each region and has had input into the wording of the final document through the lobbying of members at these meetings. IFBPW had five official observers at the Conference as well as observers from our affiliates attending on their country's behalf.

Since Beijing, the organization has, through its affiliate members and its representatives at United Nations offices and at the Commission on the Status of Women in New York, been monitoring the implementation of the Platform for Action. Affiliates have been encouraged to lobby their Governments to carry out the commitments that they made in Beijing.

IFBPW has permanent representatives at the Economic and Social Council in New York, Geneva and Vienna, and the five regional commissions.

IFBPW also works with other United Nations subsidiaries and associate bodies, attending sessions and reporting to its affiliates on the work of the Commission on

the Status of Women, the Commission on Human Rights, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and Women in Agriculture.

Since the last report IFBPW has been granted "Liaison Status" with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (in February 1997) and has been granted observer status to attend sessions with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (since December 1997).

Other United Nations bodies with which IFBPW also holds consultative status and with which it cooperates through representation or observer status are the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Labour Organization (ILO). In addition, IFBPW is intimately involved with the ILO International Training Centre in Turin, where members of affiliates from developing countries and Eastern Europe have been included in various training programmes.

In 1995, IFBPW was represented at the UNIDO seminar in Vienna on women and the United Nations.

IFBPW will be attending the UNESCO Global Summit on Higher Education in October 1998 in Paris and two of its members have been invited to sit on panels for that meeting.

IFBPW has, in the past year, concentrated on two specific items in the Platform for Action. As well as IFBPW's making a statement at New York at the forty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women on the girl child, its European members have developed a charter for the girl child and her rights.

It has also undertaken a worldwide survey on the incidence of violence against women, made a statement on this issue and has undertaken an international project to raise awareness of the problem with its affiliates and encourage them, through their Governments, to take action to eliminate the problem.

IFBPW has made statements at the Summit on World Food Security in November 1996 and Rural Women's Day in Rome in 1997. It has also made statements at the Commission on the Status of Women in 1995, 1996 and 1997, at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) in 1997 and at the Jakarta/ESCAP conference in 1994. It has co-signed statements to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the NGO Committee on the Family, in association with the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on Social Development in New York, and at the follow-up to the World Food Summit.

IFBPW was represented at the Conference on Women and Decision-Making Positions in International Financial Institutions in Boston in 1996 where a statement was also made.

IFBPW has made a submission to UNIDO arguing for the retention of the department of women's affairs and lobbied the president of the European Commission asking him to make representations to UNIDO on behalf of women.

At the fiftieth anniversary of the Commission on the Status of Women, one of IFBPW's longest-serving members, Esther Hymer, was honoured by Secretary-General Kofi Annan. IFBPW has set up the Esther Hymer BPW United Nations Training Award in her honour to mark the celebration of her one hundredth birthday in July 1998.

4. Church World Service, Inc.

(Special consultative status granted 1974)

Church World Service is the international service unit of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America (NCCC-USA). The NCCC-USA brings together 34 Christian communions, including Protestant, Orthodox and Anglican church bodies, for cooperation in areas of common concern. Approximately 52 million United States Christians belong to churches holding membership in NCCC-USA.

Five years ago, the Church World Service Unit of NCCC-USA formed the International Justice and Human Rights Office by combining three offices that for decades had previously existed separately in Church World Service: the Office for International Affairs; the Office for Human Rights; and the Intermedia or World Communications Office. For four years this combined office was known as the World Community Office. This year it has changed its name to the International Justice and Human Rights Office to more clearly identify its history. The IJHR Office represents Church World Service at United Nations-non-governmental organization events.

The Program Ministry on International Justice and Human Rights of Church World Service is a committee of representatives from the NCCC member communions who come together to act in partnership through the International Justice and Human Rights Office to do the following:

- Work for global peace, social justice, and common security;

- Affirm and support economic, social, cultural, civil and political human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- Promote better understanding, human dignity and tolerance within the global community, through the access by all people to all means of communication.

Over the past four years, Church World Service, through the International Justice and Human Rights Office, has been actively present in a number of United Nations events. These have included the International Conference on Population and Development, Cairo, Egypt, 5–13 September 1994; the World Summit for Social Development, Denmark, March 1995; Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, China, 4–15 September 1995; and United Nations United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3–14 June 1996. In Istanbul, IJHR staff worked with other non-governmental organizations on language related to economic justice and sustainable development, particularly in relation to corporate social responsibility for investment and reinvestment in local communities in partnership with local authorities and local community groups.

The IJHR Office of Church World Service gives priority to involvement as a non-governmental organization in the United Nations in order to educate and involve its constituency in support of the United Nations as an institution, and to advocate at the United Nations for policies related to international justice and human rights.

In 1995 the IJHR Office of Church World Service co-sponsored the publication and distribution of denominational study guides on the United Nations in observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

During 1998, the IJHR Office of Church World Service is holding a series of consultations on the United Nations and once again developing a study guide for use by member churches during 1999. The nationwide study process will culminate in the formulation of a new policy statement for support of the United Nations to be acted upon by the National Council of the Churches of Christ at its General Assembly in November 1999.

5. Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

(Special consultative status granted 1985)

Introductory statement

The Women's Missionary Society of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, non-governmental organization, has as its purpose and goals to promote growth in knowledge and experience of God through Jesus Christ; seek fellowship with people in all lands; provide materials and programmes to enable the consciousness of missions; and be an advocate for the editorial and educational arms of the society, and for human rights.

Our organization encompasses more than 800,000 women in various parts of the world, including Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Virgin Islands, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Jamaica, and London, England, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Funding sources are received as underwritings for particular programming, such as institutes and seminars.

Participation in Economic and Social Council or United Nations conferences

During this quadrennium, we have not had the pleasure or knowledge of meetings at the Economic and Social Council; therefore, we have had no occasion to present oral or written statements. However, we plan to be more participatory in this quadrennium.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes

The Society has utilized the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat to disseminate information to our constituents across the country. Our non-governmental organization representatives, Flora Eastman and Gloria Corker, attend briefings on Thursdays which relate to the issues we have adopted. They are health, women and children, human rights, and peace and justice. They have also attended the annual conferences held by the Department of Public Information, with non-governmental organization sponsorship, each September; also special conferences, for example, for children and older adults.

The Society has also worked with the United Methodist Office at the United Nations on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women project.

Other relevant activities

Have held non-governmental organization conferences at the United Nations, annually, in cooperation with the programme unit, obtaining speakers from the United Nations on particular issues.

Our constituents from over the country have attended the conferences and are utilizing an "action packet" presented to highlight, in their own communities, the issues raised at the conferences. Thus, the society is keeping wider communities abreast of what the United Nations is doing, regarding humanitarian concerns.

6. International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences

(Special consultative status granted 1989)

Nature of the Institute

ISISC is a non-governmental organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. In addition, the Institute has a cooperation agreement with the United Nations Centre for International Crime Prevention (United Nations Office at Vienna) for the implementation of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme. The Institute also enjoys consultative status with the Council of Europe. The Institute is a public foundation established by a Decree of the President of the Republic of Italy as a not-for-profit postgraduate educational and scientific institution devoted to studies, research and the advancement of criminal sciences in the widest sense, including human rights. The Institute was founded in Siracusa in September 1972 by the International Association of Penal Law and the City, Province, and Chamber of Commerce of Siracusa. The Sicilian Region and these local government entities are the principal funding sources of the Institute. The governing body of the Institute is an independent 25-member Board of Directors, 16 of whom are elected by the *Conseil de direction* of the International Association of Penal Law. The others are ex officio members representing local government entities. An independent board of auditors monitors the Institute finances.

Scientific activities

From 1972 to 1997, the Institute conducted 210 conferences, seminars, and meetings of committees of experts with a cumulative participation of about 14,000 persons from 137 countries, among whom were some 4,000 professors from 412 university faculties. One hundred eight international, intergovernmental, and non-governmental organizations have co-sponsored some of the activities of the Institute. Ninety-six volumes containing proceedings of activities held at the Institute have been published.

Type of activities

Activities comprise:

(a) International conferences of experts on subjects of contemporary interest to the international scholarly community. These conferences are related to the work of the United Nations and of the Council of Europe. These conferences gather the world's leading authorities and experts in the criminal sciences;

(b) International seminars, which are conducted in the form of continuing legal education programmes. These programmes are attended by academics, judges, government officials, lawyers, and young law graduates;

(c) Meetings of experts, which are organized at the request of or in cooperation with the United Nations to prepare draft international instruments and to prepare specific meetings. Many of these meetings have produced significant international instruments;

(d) Interregional programmes:

The Arab and African programmes: since 1985, the Institute has embarked on a far-reaching human rights programme for the Arab world. In December 1985, the Institute held the first conference on Criminal Justice Reform and Human Rights Education. Sixty-seven jurists from 12 Arab countries and Palestine attended this conference. As a result of that initiative, a Committee of Experts convened in December 1986 to prepare a Draft Arab Charter on People's and Human Rights. Seventy-six distinguished Arab personalities from 12 Arab countries and Palestine attended the meeting. "Draft Arab Charter on Human and People's Rights" was submitted to the League of Arab States and to all heads of State in the Arab world. It received the support of the Arab Lawyers' Union, which represents over 100,000 lawyers in the Arab world. Thereafter, a series of 17 seminars have been developed on teaching human rights in Arab law schools, judicial training centres, police academies and the military justice programme. Three of these programmes have been conducted in Egypt. Today, the number of participants has reached 1,597 including over 350 law professors, instructors in judicial training institutes, police academies and military justice programmes from 18 Arab States. Four volumes of material in Arabic were produced with the proceedings of

those seminars: the translation into Arabic of all the regional and international Conventions on Human Rights; explanatory texts and commentaries on such instruments; their enforcement in the legislation of the different Arab countries. The last volume describes the teaching methods of human rights in law faculties, in training centres for judges, in police and military academies. Over 1,000 copies of each of the four volumes were distributed to educators and law libraries in the Arab world. Eight law schools had offered human rights courses annually, exposing some 10,000 students to this subject. Some judicial training institutes and police academies have also included human rights education as part of their programmes. The Institute organized seven conferences for jurists of the Arab world held in Cairo and Alexandria. Two thousand persons participated in such conferences. The proceedings of the Cairo and Alexandria conferences resulted in three volumes. The total number of publications in Arabic reached 11 by 1997, including a special publication in Arabic of the European Convention on Human Rights. This booklet was the first authorized publication by the Council of Europe in a language other than the Council's official language. In 1990, the Institute published the "Draft Charter on the Prevention of Torture and Other Inhuman or Degrading Treatment" which was prepared by a Committee of Experts convened at the Institute in 1989. Three thousand copies of the "Draft Charter" were distributed in the Arab world. In 1990–1991, the Institute introduced a five-week programme for senior graduate students from the Arab region. The goal of this intensive programme was to familiarize a new generation of jurists with the concern for human rights in the Arab region. In 1993, two important conferences for Arab Judges were held. The proceedings were published in two volumes: one dealing with the Arab system of judicial training and the other with the inter-State cooperation in penal matters. Lastly, in November 1997, a conference was held in Cairo on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court. Three hundred persons from six Arab countries participated. Some of these programmes were conducted in cooperation with the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division (now Centre for International Crime Prevention), with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights and the Council of Europe. This is the world's most significant regional programme in the field of human rights education ever undertaken. The Institute also developed a programme, in cooperation with the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division (now Centre for International Criminal Prevention) and the Swedish International Development Agency on criminal justice and human rights for African jurists. The first programme, for English-speaking jurists, was held in July 1992. The second one, for Portuguese-speaking jurists, was held in May 1997.

Activities with the United Nations

The Institute has undertaken a number of international initiatives, which have included committees of experts of the United Nations and of the Council of Europe for the purposes of elaborating international instruments. Perhaps the most important of these meetings was the preparation by a Committee of Experts in 1977 of the Draft Convention on the Prevention and Suppression of Torture. The draft text was formally submitted by the Association to the United Nations in 1978. The General Assembly adopted the Convention in 1984. A number of other international instruments have also been elaborated at the Institute. Those that the United Nations has adopted to date are:

(a) Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession (1981; document E/CN.4/Sub.2/481/Add.1, August 1981);

(b) Principles on the Protection of the Rights of the Mentally Ill (1980; document E/CN.4/Sub.2/NGO/81, 13 August 1980);

(c) Guiding Principles for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in the Context of Development (1983; adopted by the *Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August–6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1), and recommended by the General Assembly for national, regional and international action in its resolution 40/32 of 29 November 1985;

(d) Model Agreement on the Transfer of Foreign Prisoners (1984; adopted by the *Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August–6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1), and welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 40/146 of 13 December 1985);

(e) Model Treaty on the Transfer of Proceedings in Criminal Matters (1985; General Assembly resolution 45/118 of 14 December 1990, annex);

(f) Model Treaty on Extradition (General Assembly resolution 45/116 of 14 December 1990, annex);

(g) Model Treaty on Enforcement of Sentences (1991; document E/CN.15/1992/4/Add.3 and Corr.1, 5 March 1992).

Specific activities in collaboration with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division (now Centre for International Crime Prevention), 1994–1997: conferences, seminars and committees of experts

(a) International experts conference:

(i) International Criminal Justice: Historic and Contemporary Perspectives (4–8 December 1994; 95 participants among whom 35 reporters, from 28 countries and 40 universities; seminar for Egyptian Ministry of Justice Experts);

(ii) Inter-State Cooperation in Penal Matters (14–20 July 1996; 38 participants among whom six reporters, from four universities);

(b) International conference: Migration and Crime: Global and Regional Problems and Responses (Courmayeur, 5–8 October 1996; 171 participants among whom 43 reporters, from 40 countries and 32 universities);

(c) Intergovernmental Experts Meeting: Extradition (10–13 December 1996; 52 experts from 24 countries and 3 universities);

(d) Committee of Experts: Committee for Model Legislation on Extradition (22 and 23 November 1997; eight experts from seven countries);

(e) International Conference: Comparative Criminal Justice Systems: From Diversity to Rapprochement (16–19 December 1997; 106 participants among whom 13 reporters, from 26 countries and 56 universities).

Training seminars

The Institute has conducted a number of training seminars with the United Nations for judges and public officials from developing countries on the topics of extradition and the administration of justice:

(a) Seminar for Lusophone African Countries 25 May–1 June 1997: Protection of human rights in the administration of criminal justice (51 participants, among whom 10 reporters, from 10 Portuguese-speaking African countries);

(b) Planning Committee for the organization of the International Training Seminars for Officers from the Ministries of Justice and of Foreign Affairs of Developing Countries: Extradition (30 and 31 May 1997; seven experts from five countries);

(c) Training Seminar for Egyptian Public Prosecutors: Inter-State cooperation in penal matters (1–5 June 1997; 32 participants, among whom 5 reporters);

(d) Training Seminar for Governmental Officers from Developing Countries: Extradition (16–22 November 1997; 51 participants among whom 7 reporters, from 43 countries).

Activities in support of the establishment of an International Criminal Court

(a) Committee of Experts: International Criminal Court (24–28 June 1995; 34 experts from 12 countries and 15 universities);

(b) International Experts Conference: Establishment of a Permanent International Criminal Court (3–8 December 1995; 66 participants among whom 39 reporters from 29 countries and 29 universities);

(c) Informal Inter-sessional Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for an International Criminal Court: Establishment of a Permanent International Criminal Court (10–14 July 1996; 34 experts from 20 countries) (three documents were drafted to be presented to the Preparatory Committee: "Rules of Evidence and Procedure" by Mark Jennings (Australia); "Applicable Law and General Principles of Criminal Law" by Donald K. Piragoff (Canada); "International Cooperation and Judicial Assistance: International Criminal Court Draft Statute, parts 7 and 8" by Pieter Kruger (South Africa);

(d) Informal Inter-sessional Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for an International Criminal Court: Rules of Procedures and Evidence (29 May–4 June 1997; 56 experts from 31 countries) (a document was drafted to be presented to the Preparatory Committee: "Abbreviated Compilation of Proposals on the rules of Procedures and Evidence");

(e) Informal Inter-sessional Meeting of the Preparatory Committee for an International Criminal Court: "International Cooperation" (16–22 November 1997; 60 experts from 35 countries).

Publications

As of December 1997, 96 books of Institute Proceedings have been published with one in print. Some of the proceedings of the Institute's activities are contained in the *Revue Internationale de Droit Pénal and Nouvelles Études Pénales*, others are published in-house by the Institute in the series *Quaderni*. The Institute also has publishing agreements with two major Italian publishing

companies, Cedam (Pavia) and Jovene (Naples), for Italian-language publications. In addition, the Superior Council of Judges (*Consiglio Superiore della Magistratura*) has published five books of the conference proceedings that it co-sponsored with the Institute. Major book publishers in the United States, France, Italy, Lebanon and the Netherlands have also published some of the Institute's proceedings. These comprise:

(a) *International Criminal Justice: Historic and Contemporary Perspectives*, 68 Revue Internationale de Droit Pénal, Nos. 1–2 (1996);

(b) *Draft Statute for an International Criminal Court (Siracusa Draft)* was prepared by the Committee of Experts who met at the Institute in June 1995. This text, dated 31 July 1995, was submitted to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court in August 1995. The updated text was then elaborated at the International Experts conference of December 1995;

(c) The *Updated Siracusa Draft* of 15 March 1996 was submitted for consideration to the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court;

(d) At the informal Inter-sessional Meeting held 16–22 November 1997, the Abbreviated Compilation of Proposals on International Cooperation and Judicial Assistance (ICC Statute, part 7, and ICC Statute, part 8) was drafted. It was presented to the Preparatory Committee on the Establishment of an International Criminal Court;

(e) *The International Criminal Court: Observations and Issues before the 1997–98 Preparatory Committee; and Administrative and Financial Implications*, 13 Nouvelles Etudes Pénales (1997), M. C. Bassiouni, ed., Joint Project of International Association of Penal Law (AIDP); International Human Rights Law Institute, DePaul University; International Institute of Higher Studies in Criminal Sciences (ISISC); International Law Association, American Branch, Committee on ICC;

(f) *Observations on the Consolidated International Criminal Court: Text before the Final Session of the Preparatory Committee*, 13 *bis* Nouvelles Etudes Pénales (1998) Leila Sadat Wexler, special ed.

Note: Proceedings of the meetings on the International Criminal Court were distributed to United Nations Permanent Representatives, Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Ministers of Justice all over the world.

7. Covenant House

(Special consultative status granted 1985)

The aims of Covenant House are: to identify and attempt to assist in solving the problems of the urban poor, especially abandoned or neglected children; to explore and participate in the identification of the social, psychological and physical problems of these children; and to stimulate public awareness of the need for effective youth-care facilities. Covenant House achieves these aims by providing crisis care and supportive services to more than 48,000 runaway and homeless youth per year. Covenant House is located in the United States of America, Canada, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Services include food and shelter, street outreach, medical and nutritional assistance, substance abuse counselling and advocacy.

In 1994 and 1995, Covenant House worked closely with the non-governmental organization community and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) through the Rights of the Child Caucus to put the issues of children in the agenda of the World Summit for Social Development. This was no easy task, since at the beginning of this process children were no more than an afterthought. That changed thanks to the lobbying of the non-governmental organization community and especially UNICEF, so much so that not only did commitment six of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development underscore the right of all to education and basic health care but in the accompanying Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development, the 117 heads of State committed themselves to several goals so that "particular efforts should be made to protect children and youth by:

> "(a) Promoting family stability and supporting families in providing mutual support, including in their role as nurturers and educators of children;
>
> "(b) Promoting social support, including good-quality child care and working conditions that allow both parents to reconcile parenthood with working life;
>
> "(c) Supporting and involving family organizations and networks in community activities;
>
> "(d) Improving the situation and protecting the rights of children in especially difficult circumstances, including children in areas of armed conflict, children who lack adequate family support, urban street children, abandoned children, children with disabilities, children addicted to drugs ..."

Moreover, in 1996, we collaborated once more with the same Rights of the Child Caucus and UNICEF to achieve similar goals in the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). Once again, children were hardly recognized at the beginning of this process. Once again, their needs became an integral part of the final document of all the attending Governments.

For the past four years, Covenant House has also had the pleasure of chairing the NGO Committee on UNICEF's Working Group on Exploited Children. In addition to identifying exemplary programmes throughout the world that are meeting the needs of working children, this working group has had a significant influence in two major areas in UNICEF's recent development:

(a) First, the adoption by the UNICEF Executive Board of its new policy and strategy on child protection which:

(i) Provides measures to protect children in circumstances of, or at risk of, gross exploitation, abuse, abandonment and other forms of special disadvantage;

(ii) More importantly, enhances UNICEF capacities so as to give a higher profile within UNICEF programmes to the protection of children exposed to extreme hazards and risks, as well as to strengthen UNICEF partnerships with agencies of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and others who are active in issues of child protection;

(b) Second, the focus UNICEF has given to the issue of child labour, especially as presented in its *The State of the World's Children 1997* report. The working group assisted in this project by providing a situation analysis of the variety of ways in which the world non-governmental organization community currently responds to meeting the needs of working children.

Additionally, Covenant House chaired the nominations process for the 1997 elections for the officers and board of the NGO Committee on UNICEF and for two years served as the representative for that committee to the NGO/DPI Executive Committee.

Over the past four years, Covenant House has also worked closely with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme both by participating in a work group that has focused on demand reduction strategies and by providing speakers from its Honduran programme for an international forum on substance abuse.

Finally, Covenant House participated in the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children held in Stockholm in 1996. More recently, Covenant House was an active participant in the Global March Against Child Labor which began in 1997 and culminated in Geneva in the summer of 1998.

8. International Association of Lawyers

(Special consultative status granted 1971)

The International Association of Lawyers (UIA) is an international association of lawyers' associations and of individual lawyers. It was formed in 1927 in Brussels, Belgium. Nearly 300 bar associations and law societies from 112 countries are members of UIA. These member associations are representative of most of the world's legal systems and many of the world's languages. All the major lawyers associations of the world are active members. In addition, UIA has many individual members. UIA has six official languages (French, English, Spanish, German, Italian and Arabic) and three working languages (French, English and Spanish).

The objects of the UIA include the following:

(a) To serve the interests of the people and the lawyers, and the bars that protect them;

(b) To promote the essential precepts of the work of the lawyer as defender of the rights of citizens;

(c) To promote the development of jurisprudence in all fields of the law throughout the world;

(d) To take part in the activities of the United Nations and other international organizations;

(e) To establish at an international level permanent relations and exchanges between bar associations and law societies, and their members;

(f) To defend the interests of members of the legal profession;

(g) To study, develop and improve the organization and administration of the legal profession.

Since 1971, UIA has been in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. From that time until the present, and continuing, UIA has contributed to the activities of the Council and its commissions.

UIA is ultimately governed by its General Assembly at which one nominated representative of the lawyers and

lawyers' associations of each member country is entitled to vote. The Assembly meets annually. UIA is managed by its Governing Board which meets a number of times each year. The day-to-day operations of UIA are in the hands of its Executive Committee which meets much more frequently, at times nominated by the President.

During the period to which this report relates the UIA had 26 permanent commissions, as follows:

Banking Law
Competition Law
Computer and Telecommunications Law
Contract Law
Corporate Law
Criminal Law
Defence of the Defence
European Community Law
Family Law
Foreign Investment
Franchising
Human Rights
Immigration Law
Intellectual Property
International Arbitration
International Civil Procedure
Justice for All
Labour Law
Mergers and Acquisitions
Private International Law
Product Liability
Retirement and Pensions
Sale of Goods
Tax Law
The Future of the Lawyer
Tort Law

The work of each of the commissions of UIA is related to activities of the United Nations. In addition to the permanent commissions, there were 12 working groups whose work was also relevant to the activities of the United Nations.

Activities of UIA

UIA holds a Congress each year and a number of seminars as well. During the four years under review the Congresses were held as follows:

(a) 1994: Marrakech, Morocco;

(b) 1995: London, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland;

(c) 1996: Madrid, Spain;

(d) 1997: Philadelphia, United States of America.

At each Congress, main themes on important issues of human rights, business law and the legal profession were the subject of substantial speeches and discussion in plenary sessions. In addition, each of the Commissions and Workings Groups of UIA held meetings.

The Congress in Philadelphia was followed by a specially arranged session at United Nations Headquarters in New York where leaders from the bars of the world took part in a number of sessions addressed by United Nations officers from all areas, and particularly human rights and trade law. The session was opened and attended by Hans Corell, The Legal Counsel. A luncheon address was given by the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Very many seminars on specialized topics were conducted during the four years.

There were five presidents of the UIA during the period. They were:

(a) 1993–1994: Mauro Rubino-Sammartino, Milan, Italy;

(b) 1994–1995: Garry Downes, Sydney, Australia;

(c) 1995–1996: Albert-Louis Dupont-Willemin, Geneva, Switzerland;

(d) 1996–1997: K. K. Venugopal, New Delhi, India.

UIA and the United Nations

During the period, UIA was much involved with activities that are relevant to the work of the United Nations. It responded to a number of requests emanating from the United Nations and received and studied many reports emanating from the United Nations. In this regard it is appropriate to refer particularly to the Commission on Human Rights and Human Rights Committee, with which the UIA Human Rights Commission and Commission on the Defence of the Defence were closely involved, and the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL) with which many of the UIA Commissions were involved.

During the period, Alain Lestourneaud, *Avocat*, of Thonon Les Bains, in France, very close to Geneva, was the UIA's special representative to the Commission on Human Rights and the Human Rights Committee. He attended their annual sessions and addressed the Commission on Human Rights. In addition, he was in frequent contact with United Nations staff in Geneva. Garry Downes, Master of the Order

of Australia, Queen's Counsel (AM QC), when President, addressed the annual session of the Commission.

In association with bodies such as the International Commission of Jurists and Amnesty International, UIA, in consultation with United Nations officers in Geneva, was frequently involved in issues around the world involving human rights questions.

Commercial Law Commissions of the UIA were involved, during the period, with UNCITRAL. They were particularly in liaison with Mr. Gerold Herrmann, the Secretary of UNCITRAL from 1991. Garry Downes has represented UIA at every annual session of UNCITRAL since 1995. He continues to be the principal UIA representative to the United Nations since his retirement as UIA President. He is a UIA representative in New York, Geneva, and Vienna and has been in each place a number of times in the last few years.

The Secretary of UNCITRAL or his nominee habitually attends the annual Congresses of UIA.

In 1995 the American Bar Association, UIA and the International Bar Association jointly sponsored a dinner at United Nations Headquarters in New York. Garry Downes, when President, attended and addressed the guests.

While continuing its annual attendance at the meeting of the Commission on Human Rights, UIA has also been present at the 1995 and 1996 sessions of UNCITRAL in Vienna and New York, respectively. Dr. Herrmann has addressed a meeting of leaders of lawyers associations from around the world sponsored by UIA. There has been close liaison between him and Jernej Sekolec, the Senior Legal Officer of UNCITRAL. A number of joint projects between UIA and UNCITRAL are under consideration. These were discussed particularly during meetings with Mr. Sekolec during the 1995 UIA Congress in London, the 1996 UIA Congress in Madrid and the 1997 Congress in Philadelphia. It is worth mentioning that UIA was well represented at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, in 1995.

UIA now has active representatives to the United Nations in each of its principal seats: New York, Geneva and Vienna. At each location, there are at least two United Nations representatives: a local resident whose task is to liaise regularly, and a person holding high office in UIA.

UIA has always valued very highly its association with the United Nations through its being in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. It hopes, through this means, to make a contribution to the aims and goals of the United Nations. That involvement and contribution are increasing year by year and will continue to do so. UIA stands ready, whenever called upon, to give such assistance as it is able to United Nations commissions and agencies.

9. World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA)

(Special consultative status granted 1947)

Introduction

The World Young Women's Christian Association (World YWCA) unites associations that are working in accordance with its basis and principles and meet the requirements for affiliation; it seeks to coordinate them into a world movement; it acts on their behalf in matters for which it has received authority. It provides a channel for the sharing of resources and exchange of experiences. It helps its member associations with development of their leadership and programme; surveys new fields; and promotes work to meet needs. It works for international understanding, for improved social and economic conditions and for basic human rights for all people; and acts in cooperation with the United Nations and non-governmental organizations in matters of common concern.

Substantive contribution to the Economic and Social Council through oral or written statements

The World YWCA made several statements to the Economic and Social Council and its bodies on specific issues such as climate change, restructuring of the United Nations Centre for Human Rights, youth and gender, comfort women, poverty, productive employment and social integration and participation of women, women in urban areas, population, nutrition, health, development, migration, drug consumption and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Participation in United Nations conferences and meetings

The World YWCA makes every effort to participate in United Nations meetings and conferences that are relevant to its concerns, through its extensive network in 85 countries around the world. It participated in a total of 33 major United Nations conferences and meetings, including those of its specialized agencies and bodies such as the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF); the International Labour

Organization (ILO); the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

Some worthy of mention are: International Conference on Population and Development, United Nations meeting on Palestine, UNICEF meeting on refugee children and children in conflict, Fourth World Conference on Women, United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), UNHCR Executive Board meetings, FAO World Food Summit, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Fifth Conference on Adult Education, World Youth Forum of the United Nations System, United Nations/NGO International Symposium on Palestine and sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, among others.

Cooperation with United Nations programmes and bodies and specialized agencies

The World YWCA is frequently invited to provide resource people for United Nations events. Involvement may be described as follows:

- Member of UNICEF Technical Support Group which is focused on youth health and development;
- Member of Steering Committee of the Youth NGOs which organized the Youth Consultation in Cairo during the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994;
- As member of the Board of International Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine (ICCP), the World YWCA cooperates with and attends all meetings called by the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People;
- Acts as secretariat of the NGO Working Group on Palestine calling meetings of the Working Group at least twice a year;
- Sent a fact-finding team to Palestine in 1995 and 1996 to assess the situation there and monitor the peace process;
- The World YWCA President made a presentation at a special day-long event on the girl child organized by UNICEF at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing;
- Provided three speakers for Youth Day which was celebrated during the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing;
- Many YWCAs responded to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) request for the International Youth Essay Competition on "Promoting Reproductive Health: The Youth Perspective";
- On behalf of the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and UNFPA, the World YWCA distributed the Adolescent Health Resource roster Consultant Form to all its affiliates and received several responses. WHO plans to call upon these consultants in different regions to carry out short-term assignments for it in the field.

Action in implementation of United Nations resolutions

This is done mostly by disseminating information through its publications, for example, *Common Concern* (quarterly) and *Advocacy Briefing Notes* (monthly). They contain updates on international conferences, particularly their impact on the local and national situations of women. Action Alerts are issued as needed for the active mobilization of the entire movement. It may be noted that:

- Following Beijing, the December 1995 issue of *Common Concern* contained a guide using the Platform for Action for advocacy programmes in the YWCAs;
- By encouraging participation in United Nations conferences by YWCA women, World YWCA strives to enable them to learn how international decisions are made through the United Nations process and procedures and how non-governmental organizations can affect these decisions by lobbying and strategizing for change.

Consultations and cooperation with officials of the United Nations Secretariat

The World YWCA remains in close contact with the Secretariats in Geneva, New York and Paris through its representatives on matters of common concern, for example, human rights, status of women, youth, environment and other issues relevant to the welfare of women and girls.

The World YWCA made a substantial contribution in the form of written responses to United Nations inquiries

Responses were in regard to:

(a) World Health Organization on "Progress in Human Reproduction Research", 1996;

(b) International Labour Organization on "Special List of NGOs — 1997 Review";

(c) Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat for 1994 NGO Directory, 1994;

(d) United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on "Violence Against Women Migrant Workers", 1997;

(e) UNESCO on "Evaluation of Collective Consultation of Youth Organizations", 1996;

(f) UNICEF on "Implementation of the NGO/UNICEF Partnership Project", 1997;

(g) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on "New NGO Database".

Preparations of papers at the request of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

The World YWCA was asked to participate in a panel for the Fiftieth Annual United Nations Department of Information Conference on 10 September 1997 in Geneva. It presented a paper on "Women's Participation or Lack of in the International Arena".

It also presented a paper on behalf of the International Coordinating Committee for NGOs on the Question of Palestine during the commemoration of the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People in Geneva.